

Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), the DPCO and the Drug Chemicals Act, would soon come under one umbrella; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken:

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reported that there is a proposal to set up Central Drugs Authority of India to provide technical vision and policy direction for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics sectors and their regulation in the country. For the purpose, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is being amended.

The issue of having an integrated regulatory authority would be examined in the light of decision on the proposed National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM held on 10.4.2007. No time-frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

Supply of foodgrains to hostels and welfare institutions

***427. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:** Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme called Supply of Foodgrains to Hostels and Welfare Institutions to help the shelterless and homeless people;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether this scheme is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details of allocation and off take to Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of off take of foodgrains against the allocation is too low since 2002-03 onwards; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a scheme called Supply of Foodgrains to Hostels and Welfare Institutions to help shelterless and homeless people, not covered under Targeted Public Distribution System or any other Welfare Scheme. This scheme was started in 2002-03 to liquidate stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool which were high at that time. Under the scheme 5% of BPL allocation of foodgrains is made to the State/Union Territories Administrations for further allocation to such welfare institutions/hostels.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The allocation and offtake of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh during the last five years are as under:

(*In tons)

Year	Allocation	Reported Offtake
2002-03	72240	72240
2003-04	72240	72240
2004-05	63600	13984
2005-06	60764	16278
2006-07	65802	32416

*These figures are based on reports received from State Government and have not been reconciled with FCI accounts.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The percentage of offtake of foodgrains against the allocation was low only during 2004-05 and 2005-06 but has increased during 2006-07.

Newly developed varieties of pulses

†*428. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research institutions have discovered several new and developed varieties of pulses in order to boost production of pulses in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.